GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6093
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Threat from Biological Weapons
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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken a review of the threats posed by biological weapons in the hands of international terrorist organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been prepared/contemplated by National Disaster Management Authority, in consultation with the State Governments, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other entities to tackle any situation of biological attacks in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof including any strategy to provide medical treatment to large number of people in the said situation;

(e) whether the Government has sought international co-operation on the said issue and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether it is true that the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has decided to put in place a team round the clock to deal with radioactive leaks and chemical attacks in Delhi IGI Airport and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (d) Madam, at present no specific inputs regarding threat of biological attack is available with the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, the Government is alive to the possibility of biological attacks by terrorists. In order to effectively respond to any such crises or disasters, Standard Operating Procedures have been formulated. In addition, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has published guidelines on

biological disasters including bio warfare and bio terrorism. The guidelines have identified the bio warfare / bio terrorism agents, characteristics of these agents, epidemiological clues to identify outbreak of disease caused by them, laboratory identification and their management including prevention and treatment. Twelve Battalions of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) have also been specifically trained to deal with such crises.
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has an Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme to detect outbreak of diseases, decipher epidemiological clues to determine on the characteristics of intentional use of biological agents and to advise the State governments on the public health measures that needs to be instituted. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) has also a Crisis Management Plan for Biological Disasters which is activated for such disasters requiring intervention at national level.

(e) We have signed Agreement/MoU/JDI on cooperation in the field of Disaster Management with Russia, Switzerland, Indonesia, Germany and SAARC member States.

(f) One sub team of NDRF is placed at Public Transport Centre, IGI Airport, New Delhi w.e.f. 01st March, 2017, with a view to timely response to any disaster situation in and around IGI, Airport, New Delhi.

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